

undo this social and economic injustice. It hurts all of us, and it can't continue. I know that in the stats that you shared there is another one, another statistic that is troublesome. We have now dropped below \$50,000 as the median household income. I believe we are in the range of \$48,000 to \$49,000, maybe perhaps just slightly more than \$49,000. That is troublesome. As that median continues to dip, that is a hurtful acknowledgment that there are failed policies out there that need to be turned around.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Let me put a couple of more facts on the table and then let's talk about the policy changes that can redirect that. This is the last 40 years, 1979 to 2006, prior to the Great Recession. During that period of time, there was a shift of wealth and of income, wealth and of income, from the middle class and the low-income to the very wealthy. This lays it out. Again, this is prior to the Great Recession. If we look at it in the Great Recession, these statistics are even more startling.

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For the low end, the poorest, 11 percent growth. And then you move up to the second group, 18 percent, 21 percent, 32 percent. For the top percentage, the top 20 percent, a 256 increase in income and wealth.

Looking at the statistics, a wage earner in a factory versus the CEO, it used to be 1 to 40, now it's 1 to 300. We've seen an enormous shift in wealth from the working middle class families to the very, very wealthy. If you overlay this with the 2007, 2008, 2009, and where we are today in 2011, it would be even more startling because now these are running negative, as you said just a moment ago. For the middle class, that's here and down, not the top 20 percent, but down here, this is the top 1 percent.

Mr. TONKO. So pre-recession, we were 32 percent at the best, anywhere from 11 percent to 32 percent growth, versus 256 percent growth for that top 1 percent perched at the top of the economic ladder, the income strata.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We use Donald Trump as the example here, but there are probably 400 to 500,000 that fall into this category; extraordinary wealth.

Now, we've been talking all night about the American Jobs Act, so I'm going to put this back up for us to ponder for a moment: the American Jobs Act. Total cost of the American Jobs Act: \$450 million. The President yesterday said it can be paid for, and he laid out a way to pay for it and, simultaneously, over the next decade, bring down the American deficit—solve the deficit and pay for the Jobs Act. And he said that there are three ways to do it:

First, those who have much must participate. They must share in bringing America back. So he has suggested that the highest income, that 1 percent, those who make over \$1 million,

that they participate, that they no longer would be able to have a tax rate lower than their assistants. That's the Buffett Rule. That's a big piece of it, about \$800 billion over the next decade.

He also said that corporations that pay no income tax today—corporations like General Motors, corporations like Verizon, some of America's biggest corporations pay zero income tax. Last year, General Electric paid zero and got about \$5 billion back in rebates. Something is seriously wrong, the President says. That cannot happen anymore. Everybody has to participate.

He also said that other tax breaks for the oil companies should end. So putting together these tax increases on those who have much, the super-wealthy in America, the hedge fund manager that pays 15 percent on his income where you and I and others may pay 30 percent, something's wrong here. So that's what he is recommending.

We need to move very vigorously forward on the American Jobs Act, put people back to work, and simultaneously solve the overall budget deficit by not only new taxes, but also with additional cuts. That's the President's proposal.

Mr. TONKO. I would add to that that the jobs piece is so significant. Because we can talk about tax reform, but unless you have a job and an income, then it renders itself somewhat meaningless.

I would also add, Representative GARAMENDI, the concern that as more and more pressure has befallen the 50 States, we've seen cuts to programs and resources. These services don't go away, and so the payment comes down to the local level with property tax payments that are now snuffing out the American Dream for America's working families, for the middle class. So not only is the tax policy suffocating for middle class Americans, but the counter effect of property taxes growing in order to continue services means that more and more pressure—income tax, property tax pressure, school tax pressure—is befalling the middle class. When people want to walk away from this agenda to make progressive reforms to tax policy, it scares me because this is our moment, our tipping point to turn things around.

I know that you want to close. I thank you for the outstanding leadership in bringing us together, Representative GARAMENDI. It is always a pleasure to join with you. We will continue to forcefully speak to the reforms we need.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The East-West show will continue, and the Make It in America agenda will be the American agenda because Americans want to make things in this country. They want to rebuild the manufacturing industry. The President has given us a way to do that with the American Jobs Act. Trade policy, tax policy, energy, labor, Make It in America. Make the jobs in America. Rebuild America's

manufacturing base. Rebuild the American middle class. We will do it. And if we pass the American Jobs Act, it can happen very quickly.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2608, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Mr. GARAMENDI), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-212) on the resolution (H. Res. 405) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2401, TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Mr. GARAMENDI), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-213) on the resolution (H. Res. 406) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a death in the family.

Ms. BUERKLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of official business.

Mr. REICHERT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the remainder of the week on account of illness.

Mr. BACA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### A BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on September 12, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1249. To amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.